

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action, claims 1, 3-9, 21, 22, and 24-26 were rejected, claims 2, 10-20, 23, and 27-30 were objected to and claims 31-38 were allowed.

The Final Office Action indicated that claims 2, 10-20, 23 and 27-30 would be allowable if re-written in independent form. This same statement was made in the Office Action of January 16, 2004 before Applicants amended claims 1 and 21 in an Amendment dated April 16, 2004.

With the present amendments, claims 2, 10, 13, 16, 23, 27, 28, 29, and 30 have been written in independent form based on the forms of claims 1 and 21 as they appeared before the Amendment of April 16, 2004.

Specifically, claim 1, as it appeared before the amendment of April 16, 2004, has been amended to represent claim 2 written in independent form. Independent claims 39, 40, and 41 have been added to represent claims 10, 13 and 16, respectively, written in independent form. Claim 21 has been amended to represent claim 23 written in independent form. Lastly, independent claims 42, 43, 44, and 45 have been added to represent claims 27, 28, 29, and 30, respectively, written in independent form.

With the incorporation of claims 2 and 23 into claims 1 and 21, respectively, claims 2 and 23 have been cancelled and claims 3 and 24 have had their dependency changed to depend directly from the amended independent claims. Because of the amendments to claims 1 and 21, claims 7, 8, 25, and 26 have been cancelled. With the creation of independent claims 39-45, claims 10, 13, 16, 27, 28, 29, and 30, from which they were created, have been cancelled and claims 11, 12, 14, 15 and 17 have been amended so that they depend from one of the new independent claims instead of a cancelled claim.

Since each of the pending independent claims, 1, 21, and 31-45 were indicated as being allowable, all of the pending claims

are in form for allowance. As such, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 3-6, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17-22, 24, and 31-45 is respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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